Commonalities between Teacher and Student Needs Assessments

1. What gaps did you find between/among the Teacher Needs Assessment (see

the **Teacher Needs Assessment Results** from Part 1 of the course in the

Weekly Assignments area) and Student Needs Assessment? Were some of

the issues similar?

While the survey instruments and questions asked varied dramatically in the student and teacher needs assessments, according to both needs assessments, both teachers and students have not used web 2.0 applications in school. However, students did indicate that they used several technology applications at home. Some of the most popular applications used at home include: MySpace (68%), Texting (69%), and Computer/Video Games (75%)

The strongest correlation, or gap, between both needs assessment was the lack of web 2.0 tools and other technology restrictions in place within the district currently. Both teachers and students indicated that many of the web 2.0 applications are blocked within the district.

Also, most of the teachers surveyed have been using a computer for more than four years, as in the student survey (58%).

Similarly, teachers indicated they use computers in the classroom at least for one hour per week or more (approximately 94%) and most students indicated they use computers at least a few times per month.

1. What type of gap(s) did the data indicate? Instructional Practice (Amount/type

of technology used in instruction)? Teacher Technology Ability (Teacher

needs more help in learning to integrate a specific technology)? Student

Technology Ability? (Student needs help in learning to use a specific

technology to improve learning?) Others?

How might these gaps be addressed in your Action Plan?

How important is it that this gap is closed by professional development?

What types of professional development might be presented to overcome this

gap? What else will be needed?

The gaps indicated a need for accessibility of web 2.0 tools in order to utilize technology more often within the classroom. Also, the teacher survey indicated a need for professional development on web 2.0 tools and other software, such as MS Office and SMARTBoard training.

Teachers within the district need help in learning who to integrate SMART Technologies into the curriculum as a learning instrument, as well as other educational technologies available, such as Google Sites, Wikis, MS Office, and MovieMaker. Once teachers understand and are able to use and troubleshoot when using the current district equipment, they will be able to address students’ use of technology. In particular, students should learn basic computer applications (keyboarding and word processing), as well as introductory computer research skills in elementary school. They should also be required to take computer applications in middle school and continue in high school through advanced elective courses. In order to be engaged in the learning process, students should have access to proven educationally relevant sites and web 2.0 tools, including but not limited to: Google Applications, Flickr, and xTranormal.com)

It is imperative that these gaps in current district technologies be closed in order to provide students with relevant, engaging instruments that will foster 21st century skills and learning processes necessary in becoming critical and innovative lifelong learners. In order to bring 21st century learning to the district, administration and technology department support are critical components of the action planning process.

1. What other information might help you and others think about what will be

presented in your Action Plan? Add to your document any relevant

instructional needs that you included in your original ARRA grant proposal

and any instructional needs.

A teacher needs assessment of the faculty of both buildings will help our team better understand teachers’ perceived level of knowledge in web 2.0, SMARTTechnologies and 21st century teaching strategies currently are in order to understand their needs for education. Also, knowing the specific financial information on the remainder of funding available to dedicate to technology resources during the technology purchasing equipment phase would allow us to prioritize our district/building equipment intentions.